

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, July 10. 1712.

WHILE in this nice Age, and during this Critical Juncture, I endeavour to give my Opinion, of Things with all the Impartiality that I am capable of, without regard to the Favour or Displeasure of any Side; and in order to allay the Heats of the Day, and Temper if possible, the Rage of Parties, while, I say, I am doing this, no Man meets with such Treatment as I do.

It was but two Days ago, that I receiv'd at one and the same time, one Letter from a Passionate Whig, and another from a Furious Jacobite; the one Threatning

me with the Gallows, when *their Party* gets up again; and the other with Murder and Assassination immediately, after the manner of *John Tutchin* — And how can these agree? The first charges me with Writing for the Party that would bring in the Pretender, and the other with abusing the Pretender, who he calls “ *La Pierre qui les ouvriers ont rejetée, The Stone which the Builders refused* ” and he adds; “ *Souvien toy Esprit malin que cette pierre sera un jour la chef du Cistre* ” i. e. *knowest thou, thou Devil, that this Stone shall one Day become the Head of the Corner?*

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Now in what Case is a Man, that dare speak Truth to two such Enraged Parties? How is it possible that these two Furies can be in the Right? Nay, What can more testify to me that I am in the Right, than that the Mad-Men on both Sides are thus Estrag'd?

Their Letters are too long and too dirty, to trouble the Reader with them both here — But I have Printed the one in French, as it was sent me, I think it needs no Translation; the other, if the Author pleases to give me leave, by sending me Notice how to direct to him, shall have an Answer in Writing to himself, and then, if he thinks it for his Service, it shall be Printed also.

The French Murderer's Letter is as follows.

Review, June 14. 1712.

De Foe,

QUELLE Faire Infernale, & quel Demon t'ont Inspiré le Poizon du Mensonge, que tu Vomis aujourd'hui, contre la Pierre que les ouvriers ont Rejetée souvien toy Esprit Malin, que cette pierre, sera un jour la clef du Cintre? La Sedition que tu publie tous les jours te Causera un Chastiment, quel te souvien de ton Predecesseur Tutchin, come il fut Bastonné per ses Infames Libelles, Engense de Viperre, quant cesseras tu, d'insulter les Testis Couronnée, dont ta est Enemy morrel; ausy bien que ceux dont tu espouse le Party? Tu est un Miserable chien qui ne fait que hurler.

Nigro.

And what is this all for, but for a Review of the 14th of June last, in which is quoted three Stanza's out of a Printed Ballad, which I suppose many others have seen, as well as I, in which the Pretender is called R——l, and which I never pretended to be the Author of, nor did I publish it as my own, but as a Quotation: It has not been my Method, to Treat even my worst Enemies with Scurrility or ill Manners: But I quoted this, as a Proof of

the National Aversion that was in the People of England to the Pretender; and which Aversion, I say, is great part of our Security against him.

Nay tho' I am a profess'd Enemy to the Pretender, as he has taken upon him the Title and Stile of our Sovereign, and as he pretends to the Crown of these Kingdoms, against the present Legal Establishment of the Succession in the House of Hannover; so, on the other Hand, as he is a Man only, and Abstracted from those Things, I have no Personal Enmity, either against him, or against any Man in the World; neither will I call the Great Turk, or the Cham of Tartary, Rasgal, and I have been thought hardly of formerly, because I would not Treat the King of France with Scurrilous Names: If I am an Enemy to any Man, I will be an honourable open, fair, Enemy, I will not be a Scurrilous nor Conceal'd Enemy; and this, I think, is a sufficient Answer to Monsieur Nigro, as he calls himself, and might be Satisfactory to any Reasonable Man: Nay, I believe it would be a Satisfactory Answer, even to the Pretender himself.

Now for the other Scurrilous Gentleman; he tells me most positively, That a Time is coming when there will be a strict Enquiry made into these Proceedings, and he warns me fairly against sharing in their Resentments, adding by Way of Threat, that Tyburn will be worse than the Pillory.

Whether this Gentleman Means, that he who dares stand in the Pillory rather than betray his Friends, the Whigs, must expect Tyburn from them in Reward; whenever he presumes to tell them freely their own Mistakes, a Thing I'll Witness to the Truth of; or whether he means, that when they RETURN, they will have no Mercy on all those, who have not thought it their Duty to follow them in all that they have thought fit, however Extravagantly and Unaccountably to do, or to say: Whether of these two he may mean, I know not, but this I know, that hitherto I have follow'd strictly the Dictates of Truth and my own Con-

Conscience; which Conscience, on the strictest Enquiry, I cannot think unenlightened, and in this I have Peace: Nay, so clear am I in this Point, that I hereby give my Consent, to be excepted out of any Act of Oblivion those Gentlemen may think fit, upon their Return of Power to grant to the People, and desire only what the LAWS of my Country, Impartially distributed, shall adjudge to be my Portion.

But to return to the Case, it is very Remarkable how these People, in the Blindness of their Rage. Treat Mankind: I had but a little before Printed in the Review, That, "I knew not which I could choose for the Nation, or which would be least their Damage; a Second Fire of London, or a War with the Dutch; nay, which is very Remarkable, I had said in Print but two Days before the Worthy Author sent this Letter, these very Words, "That a War with Holland at this Time, I should esteem no other-wise, than of a Man cutting off his Left Arm with his Right, Review No. 200. He tells me in his Letter, borrowing my own Allusion, That, "a War with Holland would be, as if one Arm should wound another: "What is this but to own to me, that he had not read what I had writ, and so charg'd me by hear-say, or that reading me, as most such People do, with Malice and Prejudice, his Passion would not permit him to see what I had written against a War with Holland, but runs away with what he thought serv'd his Turn, without putting Things together?

I appeal to the most Impartial Reader, and indeed from them all, (for where is an Impartial Reader now to be found?) to the great and Impartial Judge of all the World, that I have not written one Word, that can justly be Suggested to be for a VVar with the Dutch; and if I know myself, would sooner thrust my Hand into the Fire than prompt such a Thing; I declare it to be a Thing Ruinous to the Protestant Interest, and Destructive of the

Commerce and Prosperity of Britain, and what no good Man but dreads the Consequence of; and if a Spirit of Rage, Fury, and Hellish Partiality, did not possess the People of this Age, not against this Author only, but against all that will not run on to the Mad Extremes of the Day, none could have so little Honesty, or Honour, to suggest this of me, nor the Baleness to charge me with it, from what I write.

This, however, shall by no means prevent me telling these People, that the prompting the Dutch to stand out from the Peace, not to come into the Queen's Measures, but to carry on the VVar without us, is effectually pushing on a War with the Dutch, and must inevitably end in it, because, as I said before, it is impossible that we can remain Neuter.

Now is there no Difference between telling you what will be the Consequence of such a Thing, and desiring it to be? Is this blowing the Trumpet for a VVar with the Dutch, as my Letter-Writer vilely calls it? Nothing but a Malice born of the Devil, can alledge such a Thing! Is it not the direct Way to open their Eyes to their own Danger, and prevent it? If I tell a Man that if he goes into such a Water, he will certainly be carry'd away by the Stream and be Drowned, Is this to desire he should be Drowned, or to warn him against it? But such is the Unrighteous Temper of the People at this Time, especially to me, that they strive to put the worst Construction they can upon what I write, without regard to the true and evident Meaning.

But such Barbarous Treatment I must expect, from the People of this Day, and such shall every Man receive, that attempts to oppose any of the mad Extremes of the present Parties, whether on one Side or another—And when any Thing is said, they can make no Reply to, then they Rage at the Person who writes it: With what Assurance do they Reproach me with VWriting for the Ministry, and being Employ'd by the Ministry, and yet they that affirm it, know at the same Time that

that they lie against Knowledge, as well as against Truth of Fact? Because were it so in Truth, as on the other Hand I affirm it to be a Malicious abominable Forgery, yet as those who Report it do not know it to be Truth, *it is a Falshy and a Slander in them;* and it is wicked, even to Villany, because they think therein, to Injure and Ruin the Person they speak it of: I shall conclude with this publick Assertion, which I think myself bound to leave to Posterity at the close of this VVork; That throughout the whole course of this Ministry, I have neither written, or forborn to write one VVord by the Direction of the Ministry; or to oblige or serve any Party; nor have directly or indirectly been paid or rewarded for so doing: The Honour I have had to be known to some Persons who are now in the Administration, has had no Influence upon me, one VVay or other; nor have they, or any of them, or any for them, or by their Order, ever stoop'd so low as to desire me to write this, or not to write that; the Circumstances, I labour under in the VVorld, might, one would think, deliver me from the Suspicion of this Slander; *but since it will not,* for nothing will stop a Railing Spirit, I shall convince the VVorld I am not Brib'd to write, by cheerfully laying down and VVriting no more, at the Period approaching which the Law has prepared: But while I do write, not all the Rage of Parties, nor all the Threatnings of hot implacable Whigs, of Exasperated Inveterate Jacobites, shall restrain me, *unless they stop my Breath, as they Threaten,* from telling them, that by their wretched ungoverned Fury, they brought all these Things upon themselves; and he,

whoever he is, that shall charge me with being Brib'd, or Paid, or Employ'd, by any one whatsoever, for VVriting any Thing in this Paper, may take my Answer in 1 John Chap. 2. latter VVords of the 4th Verse; and I shall think myself oblig'd to him, if he is a Gentleman, that he will favour me with an Occasion to say it to his Face; for my part, I abhor Bribes, was never tainted with them, and have refus'd them at the Price of my Family's Ruin, and that, even for those very People who upbraid me with them—— And after all, I doubt not but a constant, steady adhering to Truth, and the Interest of my Country, will hereafter, make many of these Men asham'd of the Usage they now give me.

In the mean time I shall, for the little space I have to speak of these Things, go on to speak my Thoughts freely and impartially; tho' I may not please, I'll endeavour to serve; I have been telling the honest People of this Nation, how they are going the direct VVay to bring on a *War with the Dutch*, and they requite my Caution, with telling me I am blowing a Trumpet for a *War with the Dutch*—— I shall now shew them how they are going the direct Way to bring in the Pretender; perhaps they will tell me also, that I am for bringing in the Pretender, which they may do indeed, with the same Justice—— But the time is coming when they will remember too late, that those Things have been told them faithfully.

In our last, pag. 1. Col. 2. l. 1. for *get*, r. *goe*.